



THE CELEBRATION OF FUNERALS

We at St. Ambrose Catholic Church express our condolences to you during this time of sorrow. Please know that we have been praying for you and your loved one. The Catholic Funeral Rites in the *Order of Christian Funerals* (1989) are celebrations that enable the Christian community to mourn as well as to hope by focusing on the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. These guidelines are offered to assist in effectively preparing the funeral rites with individuals and families.

GUIDELINES FOR CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

A member of parish staff will meet with the family to prepare the Funeral Mass. We will explain the meaning and significance of a Catholic Funeral Mass and explain the Funeral Planning Sheet.

Floral arrangements are welcome, but should not take away from the liturgical space.

Recorded music or non-worship music may not be used within the Funeral Mass. Appropriate recorded music can be used at the wake and at the cemetery.

Liturgical music, appropriate to the liturgical season, and the funeral rite may be chosen. The role of organist, cantor and choir is to assist the congregation in singing the Mass. Soloists have very limited possible roles within Catholic worship. Their role is to assist the congregation in its prayerful meditation on the mystery of salvation. An appropriate solo is possible during the presentation of the gifts and after the congregation's communion hymn.

Ordinarily, trained and prepared liturgical ministers may exercise the role of cantor, lector, or Eucharistic minister. Family members or friends who wish to participate at the Funeral Mass should be familiar with the structure of the Mass and consult with parish staff preparing the Funeral Mass.

One family member or friend may speak briefly after the "Final Commendation" when invited by the presider to offer some words of remembrance. The brief words need to be prepared. Spontaneous remarks and eulogies can be offered at the luncheon afterward. (See *Guidelines for Words of Remembrance*).

Non-religious symbols may not be displayed in church at the Funeral Mass.

St. Ambrose
RECOMMENDED FUNERAL STIPENDS

The following are suggested stipends. [In case of financial hardship, all fees may be waived.]

Church..... \$100.00 (Parishioner*) \$250.00 (Non-parishioner)
Organist..... \$150.00 Darren Modde, Music Director 314-216-0105/ dmodde1971@gmail.com
Cantor..... \$125.00
Servers (3)..... \$10.00 each
Priest..... \$200.00
Deacon..... \$20.00

GUEST PRIEST/DEACON

If the family of the deceased requests a guest priest or deacon to be present at the Funeral Mass, the priest from St. Ambrose is to be informed. For a guest priest to preside or concelebrate at the funeral, he will need to provide a letter of Good Standing from his community or Ordinary. The family would also need to provide the name and phone number of the guest clergy.

The St. Ambrose Ministry Team will meet with the family to plan the Funeral Mass, and will handle the details of the funeral liturgy. A guest priest or deacon is always welcome to concelebrate (or assist in the case of a deacon), as long as he is in good standing. At the discretion of the presider, the guest priest/deacon may be permitted to give the homily, lead the final commendation and/or the committal service at the cemetery.

*Note: Mt. Carmel and Holy Name societies will pay for the funeral mass of a member who, at the time of death, was up-to-date with dues, or in a nursing facility or program established for “end of life”, or otherwise unable to pay dues because of illness or lack of funds.